

WASHINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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# WASHINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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As editor, I regret that the December Journal is a month late. I can plead no great extenuating circumstances -- just a host of little things.

In this issue, we had hoped to dynamically enhance our on-going collection of our county's Revolutionary War experience. As you will see, anticipated enhancement turned to disappointment. We do bring you a "new" marching song of the war; otherwise, our expected contribution of articles seem to have faded "Over the Hills and Far Away". We'll keep trying.

With this issue, fellow-member Carolyn Spruill Phelps debuts as Journal typist. We are delighted that she has committed to this often tedious and frustrating job. In payment for her otherwise "gratis" work, she asks only that we repeat our often-stated policy regarding the typing of transcriptions. This policy may be causally stated thus: "We transcribe verbatim---guts, feathers, and all---because we believe it helps us to better know the author and his times". That is, if you read "i come hear to git there corn", that's what the guy wrote--not Carolyn's errors.

Debbie Coker, typist of our last eleven Journals, early-on had the same concerns expressed by Carolyn. "The hardest thing about this job", said Debbie, "is learning to type incorrectly".

We thank Debbie (she and husband, Jerry, moved to New Bern) for her splendid work during the last four years, and look forward to working with Carolyn far into the future.

Now, from the Editor, Happy New Year, and "God bless us, every one". May the Great Gods of Genealogy grant you fruitful research, and the irrepressible urge to share it. Let's have those Journal articles:

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Edited by Edwin A. Norman  
Typed by Carolyn S. Phelps

**TO SET THE STAGE.....  
OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY**

1. Were I laid on Greenland's coast,  
And in my arms embrac'd my lass;  
Warm a-midst eternal frost,  
Too soon the half year's night would pass.  
And I would love you all the day,  
Refrain:  
And I would love you all the day,  
Every night would kiss and play,  
If with me you'd fondly stray  
Over the hills and far away  
Over the hills and far away.
2. Were I sold on Indian soil,  
Soon as the burning day was clos'd.  
I could mock the sultry toil  
When on my charmer's breast repos'd.  
Refrain:

"Over the Hills.." seems an unlikely marching song for the soldiers of King George, fighting to put down revolt in the American colonies. Written by English composer, John Gay, for his "The Beggar's Opera" produced in London in 1728, it was adopted by the British army, which carried it to various wars on several continents.

"Over the Hills.." never rang out from red-coated columns on the roads of Old Tyrrell. The British simply never came. Our South Shore soldiers may well have heard it at Briary Creek, or Guildford Courthouse, or in captivity at Charleston. Perhaps they later hummed it as they tended their nets on the Sound or ploughed their post-war fields. We, of today, probably remember it as a sort of theme song of PBS's "Sharps" series of the British Napoleonic Wars campaign in Portugal and Spain.

Now, OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY.....

EAN  
BMR



HOW TIMES DO CHANGE: (?)  
Forty is the old age of youth, fifty is the youth of old age.

Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

## THE FRANKLINS A RANDY, DIVIDED FAMILY

Our South Shore cannot claim, of course, the Franklins for its own. But most will, surely, join me in viewing Benjamin with admiration and awe, his son with respect and compassion, and his grandson with amusement. We won't recount Ben's great feats of statesmanship, his scientific experiments and discoveries, his success as a printer, and his many inventions including bifocals and the Franklin stove. We will rather, look briefly into the lesser known private lives of three generations.

When Ben (1706-1790) sauntered into Philadelphia in 1723 munching a loaf of bread, with two loaves tucked under his arms, he had completed a trek from his native Boston, via New York. On the sea passage to New York, he intimated to the captain that he had got a Boston lass in the "family way" and deemed it best to remove. He was then a precocious seveteen-year old.

As he enjoyed his loaf that Sunday morning, Ben wasn't aware that he was being watched with amusement by young Deborah Read. Deborah would later become his long-suffering common-law wife, and not always find him as amusing as when she first saw him.

Returning to Philadelphia after an extended business trip to London, young Ben found that Deborah had married, but the husband had died. They soon entered into the common-law marriage that would endure, after a fashion, until her death in 1774.

As the marriage occurred about the time a lover bore him a son, Ben took the child home to Deborah. The name William Temple Franklin was bestowed on the lad, and he was raised in the Franklin household. History doesn't record the name of the mother.

William grew up a likely lad, and his dad, then a loyal subject and servant of the Crown, had friends in high places. In 1763 William became, as time would reveal, the last royal governor of the colony of New Jersey. His post was "vacated" upon his arrest and imprisonment by the Patriots as the pot of Revolution came to boil. He was exchanged in 1782, went to England, and never returned to America. Needless to say, relationship between father and son were quite strained during the war.

William was something of a chip off the old block. He, too, sired a bastard son, Temple Franklin.

When the Revolution forced a choosing of sides, Temple sided with his grandfather, becoming Ben's secretary during his years at the Court of France. In France, we are told, Temple was quite a dandy, dressing foppishly and leading his cat about the streets upon a ribbon-leash. We know little more of Temple. Pity, eh?

Hostilities over, Benjamin and William were reconciled in 1784. Some years after Ben's death, William published The AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, which Ben had written primarily for him and left in his care.

EAN

Columbia Encyclopedia. Columbia University Press, 1950.  
Encyclopedia Britannica. 1971.  
The World of Washington Irving. E. P. Dutton & Company. 1944.



### **OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

He snatched the lightning from heaven, and the scepter from tyrants.

Anne Robert Jacques Turgot (1727-1781)

---

"If the American Revolution had produced nothing but the Declaration of Independence, it would have been worth while.

Samuel Eliot Morison (1887-1976)

---

"The minutes of a County Court are without peer in their importance to those interested in a county and its inhabitants. No one who neglects them can presume to have finished any research into local history or genealogy in early North Carolina".  
(NCGSJ. August 1884)

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October Term 1793. "The Worshipful Justices elected unanimously Samuel Chesson, Clerk of Court".  
(Tyrrell Court Minutes)

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The first session of the Washington County Superior Court held in Plymouth, the new county seat convened 2nd Monday of September, 1824. There being no courthouse, it utilized the Academy building.  
(Washington County Superior Court Minutes)

## CONSPIRACY IN OLD TYRRELL

by David E. Davis

### CHAPTER NINE

The Revolutionary War started out as a protest by the colonies against excessive taxation and other unjust acts of the king. However, as everyone knows, it resulted in the colonies winning complete independence from their mother country.

In North Carolina the years preceding the war were eventful and exciting. The colony was preparing to resist the English government by force of arms if necessary. In August of 1774 all the counties sent representatives to a convention in Newbern. This convention, which the royal governor ordered to disband, voted to join the other colonies in resisting the king. Joseph Spruill, Jeremiah Frazier, Peter Wynne, Stephen Lee and Thomas Hoskins represented Tyrrell at this famous meeting in Newbern.

On September 9, 1775 Colonel Buncombe was appointed head of militia forces in Tyrrell County and ordered to prepare for possible conflict. Benjamin Blount was made Lieutenant Colonel, James Long, First Major and Joseph Spruill, Second Major.

It is said that Colonel Buncombe, who was a wealthy planter, equipped and drilled the Tyrrell Militia at Buncombe Hall largely at his own expense. In April, 1776 another convention met at Halifax, of which Archibald Corrie was Tyrrell's only representative. This assembly placed Colonel Buncombe in command of the Fifth North Carolina Batallion which was composed of a large number of men from Tyrrell and neighboring counties. This batallion was assigned to the Continental Army under General George Washington a month later.

While Colonel Buncombe was organizing his regiment at Buncombe Hall, the Tories around Lee's Mill became very active. The Tories were people living in the colonies who were not in favor of the war, and who wanted the colony to remain a part of England. A large number of these Loyalists or Tories lived in Tyrrell County. They went about the county secretly trying to persuade patriots to leave the batallion. They promised that as soon as Buncombe's regiment had left, that General Howe, the English commander, would occupy the area and seize all the property of the rebels.

Gaining in strength, they made plans for assassinating Buncombe and other leaders. They were led by; Daniel Leggett who called himself "Senior Warden" and by John Llewellyn. Before they could carry out their plans, their secret was disclosed. Llewellyn and several Tories around Lee's Mill were arrested and placed in jail in Edenton. Llewellyn was tried, convicted and sentenced to hang. This ended the Tory plot in Tyrrell.

Mary Llewellyn, the wife of the Tory leader, went to John E. Beasley of Scuppernong, later a Senator from Tyrrell County, and asked him to plead with the Governor for her husband's life. Mr. Beasley wrote Governor Caswell, but Llewellyn was not pardoned. He was later executed at Edenton. Legget, the Tories' ring leader, when he heard of Llewellyn's death, surrendered and asked for mercy from Governor Caswell. He appears to have escaped with his neck.

In the summer of 1776 the regiment of Tyrrell Soldiers left Lee's Mill for Wilmington under Colonel Buncombe. In a letter to Governor Caswell, Joseph Hewes of Edenton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, stated that Tyrrell and Perquimans sent the first revolutionary volunteers to the Continental Army from the Albemarle section.

Colonel Edward Buncombe led the Fifth Battalion in many of the early engagements of the Revolution. He was finally wounded and taken prisoner at Germantown in Pennsylvania. He died from his wounds while a prisoner in Philadelphia in 1779 at the age of thirty-seven. His family tried to manage the large Tyrrell Plantation after his death, but it was later divided among heirs. Buncombe Hall, one of the most elegant mansions of colonial North Carolina, was deserted. It was later demolished by Carpetbaggers after the War between the States several years later.

It is not known exactly how many men from Tyrrell County served in the Revolutionary Army, though the number probably exceeded one hundred. The war finally ended with the surrender of Lord Cornwallis to General Washington at Yorktown. North Carolina, as well as the other twelve colonies, found itself a free and independent state after more than one hundred years under the English crown.

DED

---

David E. Davis, former Superintendent of Tyrrell County Schools, kindly allows us to reproduce, above, Chapter 9 of his TYRRELL HISTORY (1963). He tells us that he compiled the HISTORY primarily for the Tyrrell students.

The Lee's Mills area, home of Tory conspirator Daniel Leggett and site of Buncombe Hall, was in Tyrrell in the days of Revolution. It has been of Washington County since the formation of that county in 1799. These facts are well stated elsewhere in the Mr. Davis's HISTORY.

John Llwellyn (Lewelling, Lewellen, etc.) was of Martin County, formed in part from Tyrrell in 1774.



At the January 1891 meeting, the County Commissioners declared the bonds of Sheriff John B. Chesson "insufficient", and the office "vacant". Levi Blount was appointed in his stead.  
(Washington County Commissioners Minutes)

## VETERANS SPEAK FROM THE DEED BOOKS

As any serious researcher knows, deed books may reveal far more than the metes and bounds of our ancestral real estate.

Found among the deeds of Old Tyrrell are several "Powers of Attorney" declaring service in our Revolutionary military services. By these documents, the veteran (or his heirs) authorized others to collect any benefits that might be due them for such service. Although the documents were recorded as POAs, some seem to have actually constituted an outright sale of the veteran's rights.

We transcribe, in its entirety, the conveyance from James Snell, who declares himself to have served "in the Contentenaltal Army", presumably the Continental Line. The others aver "service of the United States", so may have been of the militia.

Book 12 p 498

"Know all men by these presents that I James Snell of the County of Tyrrell & State of North Carolina late a privet in the Contentenaltal Army of the United States of America for a valuable & full consideration to me in hand paid by John Swain Thomas Warrington

& Josiah Parr the rect whereof is hereby acknowledged have by these presents & do grant bargain sell releas Transfer & assign unto them their heirs forever all the right Title Interest property claim and Demand which I now have or which my heirs may at any time hereafter have to all and singular the lands pay arrearages of pay clothing rations rewards Bounties gratuties Prize moneys & other demands due and owing to me from the United States or from any Particular State and I do hereby for my self my heirs Covenant and agree to and with the said Swain Warrington and Parr their heirs etc that I my heirs shall and will at any time or times hereafter at the request cost and charge of them their heirs make Seal Execute and deliver or cause or procure to be made Seald executed & delivered all and every Such reasonable Act and Acts thing and things conveyances assurances & dessurancies in the Law for the perfect grant Conveying releasing Transferring and assigning all the right title Interest property Claim and Demand Which I now have or which my heirs may at ant time hereafter have.....(Remainder of document is monotonous repetition).

In witness whereof I hereto set my hand and seal this 20th day of April 1797.

Signed Sealed & Delivered in Presence of  
Henry Norman Daniel Davenport

James Snell

Other conveyances are noted below, John Swain and Thomas Warrington, both of Tyrrell County, and Samuel Sawyer (Salyer?) of Currituck, are the Grantees in each case.

Book 12, p407. 16 December, 1796

Levi Sanderlin

Book 12, p496. 17 December 1796

"Benjamin Meeds, of County of Tyrrell, heir at law to Benjamin Alexander, deed., late a private in the service of the United States"....

Book 12, p471, 10 March 1798

"Joshua Johnson, heir at law of Martin Johnson, deed, late a private...."

Book 12, p470. 22 December, 1796

John Megound.



### **WILLIAM A. SPRUILL'S FAMILY BIBLE RECORDS**

A great grandson of William Ammon Spruill has given us copies of his great grand-parent's family records. The Bible was recently rediscovered in the attic of "Oakland", built by Spruill circa 1830s, near the northern boundary of present-day Creswell.

The six "statistics" pages record the marriage of W.A. and Mary Tarkinton on April 6, 1837, and the births of ten, and deaths of six, of their children. One page, with four entries, records W.A.'s parents, Dempsey and Mary. The other two entries, Elizabeth Forbes and J.W. Tarkington, were not immediately identifiable by the present generation.

Subsequent research has revealed that Elizabeth Forbes was mother of Mary Tarkinton Spruill. J. (John) W. Tarkington was also a child of Elizabeth who, after her first marriage, wed James Forbes, a native of Pennsylvania. The relationship is clearly stated by William A. Spruill in a 1866 conveyance to his brother-in-law.

It should be noted that Dempsey Spruill, father of William Ammon, was brother to Myles Spruill whose widow's (Amelia) will is transcribed elsewhere in this issue. Dempsey's will may be found in the WCGSJ of August of 1997.

Dempsey and Myles were among the sons of Nehemiah Spruill, son of Samuel, a son of Dr. Godfrey (d.1719), the first Spruill in Carolina. Dempsey's wife, Mary, was daughter of Elkanah and Rachel Wynn Davenport.

**CSS  
EAN**

Dempsey Spruill,  
born November 14th 1779;  
died March 7th 1852.  
in the 63rd year  
of his age.

---

Mary Spruill,  
wife of,  
Dempsey Spruill;  
Born Apr. 9th 1779.  
Died Jan. 10th 1858.  
In the 79th year of her age.

---

Elizabeth Farber  
wife of  
James Farber  
Died 27<sup>th</sup> day of Oct 1855.  
in the 77th year of her age

---

J. H. Franklin  
Born Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> 1821.  
Died Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 1877.  
Aged 55 years 10 months & 25 days

PARENTS' REGISTER.

FATHER

William A. Spruill  
The son of Dempsey & Mary =  
Spruill, was born March  
10th 1811.

Died January 24<sup>th</sup> 1890  
aged 79 years 10  
months & 14 days.

MOTHER

Mary, G. Tarkinton  
The daughter of Joseph  
Tarkinton & Elizabeth  
his wife was born Jan.  
20th 1817.

Died January 26<sup>th</sup> 1894  
aged 77 years and 6 days.

## GAYLORD-WILEY FAMILIES TYRRELL & HYDE COUNTIES

The Gaylord name can be found spelled different ways in the records, Gaylord, Galard, and Garlerd. The first Thomas Gaylord moved from Chowan to Tyrrell circa 1717. James Gaylord who moved to Hyde County is believed to be his son.

James had three Children, Thomas, John, and Ann, and perhaps others. Thomas, born c. 1720, married Susannah Winfield, daughter of Richard and Mary Winfield. He was a freeholder in Hyde County in 1760, and a captain in the county militia during the Revolutionary War. Thomas died c. 1790, leaving the following children:

1. Thomas (c. 1745-1790) married Mary ? about 1775.
2. Stephen (c. 1749-1819) married (c. 1770) Elizabeth Wiley, daughter of James Wiley and Rebeka Leary. Stephen was a captain in the Hyde malitia during the War.
3. Benjamin married, 26 February 1771, Rebecca Leary, daughter of James Wiley and Rebeka Leary. Benjamin also served in the militia during the Revolution. He died in 1803.
4. Winfield married Mary Harris, and was in the militia during the war. He died in 1791.
5. James married (1) Zilpha Wiley, daughter of James Wiley and Rebeka Leary, and (2) Rebecca, widow of Jesse Cannon. James also served in the Hyde militia. He died in 1806.
6. Mary was married to William Wright by 1765.
7. Susannah married Samuel Davis.
8. Anne married James Radcliff by 1740, and was dead by 1784.
9. Martha married James Satterthwaite.

What was the connection between the Wileys and Gaylords to occasion three intermarriages? The Gaylords lived in Hyde County. The Wileys lived about one mile south of Albemarle Sound, in that portion of Tyrrell that would become Washington County's Skimmersville Township.

James Wiley was the son of Thomas Wiley, born 27 October 1662. Thomas came to the South Shore soon after 1700 and purchased a tract of land from Thomas Hawkins in 1709/10, a mile from Albemarle Sound. The land is still in the Wiley family and owned by Carlton A. Phelps.

Rebeka Leary was the daughter of Richard Leary (1685-1738) and Sarah Long, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Long. Richard Leary moved from Perquimans to Tyrrell circa 1727.

Hosea Gaylord was born in Hyde County about 1775. He had married Rhoda ? and moved to Beaufort County by 1800. Hosea was living in Washington County in 1820, having purchased 180 acres of land and obtained a 200-acre patent.

The 1820 Census lists Hosea with eight males 0-18, and four females 10-25 years. Ten of the twelve have been determined by Deed and Census records. Hosea was most likely the son of James Gaylord and Zilpha Wiley. He had sons James W. and Thomas W., named for his father

and grandfather. The "W" was surely "Wiley". Both of these sons sold their share of the estate and disappeared from North Carolina records by 1850.

AHN  
VLE



## WILL OF JOHN NEWBERRY I (1756-1818)

Our copy of the transcription of this will is from the Newberry Family papers. Date of probate is unknown to WCGS, as is the name of the transcriber. John was married first to Joanna Swain. "Loving wife Mary", of the will, is his second wife Mary (Polly), nee Phelps.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN: I John Newberry of the county of Washington and State of North Carolina, being of perfect mind and memory thanks be to God for the same do make & ordain this my last will & Testament in manner & form following, vis:

First, I desire all my just debts to be paid and the rest of my property I dispose of as follows:

I give to my loving wife Mary one bed and furniture and -----chest, I lend the plantation I now live on to her life time.

I give to my loving son Stephen Newberry Thirty Dollars.

I give to my loving daughter Polly Snell one judgement that Samuel ----obtained against me and Isam Snell for twenty eight dollars which is already paid.

I give to my loving son James Swain Newberry and Abraham Newberry all the land I have on the sound which I purchased of Joseph Parramore and Stephen Swain, senr. to be equally devided between them.

I give to my son Samuel Newberry the land I bought of Jnc. Freeman jining Nathan Smith.

I give to my sons John and Joseph doctor Newberry after the death of my wife the plantation whereon I now live and the swamp joining the same with the lands I bought of Gideon Alexander.

I give to my daughter Betsey & Joanna Newberry one bed and furniture each one chest each, also to my daughter Betsey one cow & yarling, and to my daughter Joanna Newberry one cow, and my said daughter Betsey I give one negro man Jinne and my daughter Joanna a negro named Barake. If in case the above negroes should die or either of them my will and desire is that they should have another if Rose has any children living, and my will and desire is that my negro man shall be hired out six year and the money converted to the use of schooling, John, Joseph and Joanna Newberry and the raising of Joana tile she is twelve year old.

I lend my negro rose to my wife a year then my will is that my negro rose and her increas this is not given away and negro man Jim to equally devided between my loving wife mary and James S. Newberry and Abraham Newberry and Samuel Newberry and John Newberry and Joseph doctor Newberry.

My will and desire is that after my just debts being paid the balance of my property not mentioned to be sold at six months credit to be equilly divided between my loving wife mary and Abraham Newberry and Joseph Newberry and Joanna Newberry.

I constitute and apoint my lovin son James S. Newberry and Abraham Newberry whole and sole Executors to this my last will and Testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal  
this 11th day of Otober 1818.

JOHN NEWBERRY (seal)

Signed sealed & delivered  
in presents of

Test

Jno Freeman  
James Freeman

MNK



April Term 1786. Ordered that log pens in the Suppernong River be removed.

(Tyrrell Court Minutes)

---

July Term 1786. Ordered that Allen, Dickinson, and Collins be allowed to cut a canal through the public road near Southfork Creek.

(Tyrrell Court Minutes)

{The Canal, known variously as "Collins", Transportation", and "Somerset" Canal, was completed before 1787. ed.}

---

January Term 1791. John Garrett Jr., and Joseph Garrett qualified executors of the will of John Garrett, their father.

(Tyrrell Court Minutes)

## PRELUDE TO THE MIGRATIONS

As we begin our series of accounts of early 19th Century migrations of South Shore families, it is instructive to listen to the eminent North Carolina historians, Hugh Lefler and Albert Ray Newsom. We quote their NORTH CAROLINA, THE HISTORY OF A SOUTHERN STATE, UNC Press, 1984.

"The newspapers and letters of the period abound in descriptions of the endless procession of migrating groups. The heaviest migration was from the eastern part of the state to Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Indiana. As early as 1815, Murphey (Archibald D.) estimated that 200,000 North Carolinians were living in other states.... The 1830s was the decade of heaviest migration....nearly half of the counties actually declined in population and the increase in the state was only 2 percent, whereas the normal increase was 15 per cent per decade....Land values declined and so did the state revenues from taxes because of the loss of polls and decline of land values...."

In the course of our series, we will try to identify, often without success, the causes of our various migrations. Some causes come readily to mind.....too many sons, and not enough land within the family, escape from prosecution or disgrace, friction with ones father or siblings, escape from the chills and fevers of our coastal region, and/or the lure of cheaper and more fertile land beyond the sunset.

We are disappointed that diaries, or letters, describing the adventures of the long treks seem not to exist. We shall have to be content with who and what they were before the journey, and what they achieved in their new land.

Now, we begin our series, Westward (or wherever) Ho!

### MIGRATIONS

#### No. 1 OF A SERIES

#### JAMES NEWBERRY ALBEMARLE SOUND TO CHEROKEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

James Swain Newberry (1797-1862) was son of John (1756-1818) and Joanna Swain Newberry of that region of Washington County later known as Pea Ridge. His first marriage, to Sarah Howell, lasted 14 years and produced six children. The couple divorced in 1831. James then married Nancy Freeman, by whom he had five children before the family removed to Alabama.

In January 1840, James sold his last piece of North Carolina land to James Norman, and soon had his wagons on the road to Alabama. Grant Collar, a foremost chronicler of the Newberry family, states in his NEWBERRY FAMILY AND IN-LAWS, that all eleven children, the

products of both marriages, accompanied their father. They ranged in age from 21 downward to a babe in arms. Mr. Collar states that "The move to Alabama was reportedly prompted by a family dispute over the estate settlement in North Carolina." The "dispute" must have been long and bitter; James's father had been dead 22 years at the time of the exodus.

Whatever the family climate circa 1840, James apparently held no grudge against his younger brother, John (1805-1880), as evidenced by the letters subsequently written to John, from Cherokee County. The letters, unfortunately, give no details of the long trip south. They do give evidence of prior letters which had not been answered, and had probably not been received by brother John. These, we may suspect, would have provided us with interesting accounts of the route and of occurrences along the trail.

Malcolm Newberry Knight recently gave us copies of four letters from James to his brother. With slight variation of wording, all are addressed to "John Newberry. State of North Carolina, Washington County, Cool Spring Post Office." All were mailed from either Oceola or Cedar Bluff, Alabama. We will, below, excerpt and abstract the four letters. Spelling and punctuation follow the "original."

Jany 25 (this was, almost surely, 1842 or 1843)

Dear Brother I take this opportunity of informing you that we are all well and in the land of living and hoping these few lines may find you and all my friends the same. It has been many a day since I had the opportunity of seeing any of your faces or hearing the sound of your voices. The only way we can converse is by the art of writing. I have written to you and Jordan Spruill Joseph Newberry James McCabe and never have received one word from any of you Should I meet with the same succes this is the last paper and ink that I expect (to) waste by writing to any of you my weight is two hundred pounds I have not had a days sickness since I came to this country neither has any of my family except my wife She has been sickly during this last fall She is in tolerable health and in a pregnant Situation She has had one Since She came here and his name is harrison Washington An Freeman has been verry healthy ever since she came heare and is about to do very well and she wishes to be remembered to all enquiring friends....."

James tells of entering land "about as rich as the land I sold to James Norman." He comments on the hospitality of the citizens, "But none of you have no business hear without you are smart for you have no idea of the multitude of Sharpers and Swindlers that reside hear.....I would be exceeding glad to see some of you but before I would tell a lye or deceive you I would have my head placed on a chopping block there severed from my body by telling you stories probably I could git some of you to moove hear chose to me and spend your money with me in buying corn and other things which would be a great service to me but my Honesty is too great for that I cannot advise any of you to sell your property and move hear the situation of this country for health is better than yours But you have advantages of an excelant market that we are destitute of Instead of vessels swimming along our waters we have nothing but open boats to go down our rivers which cannot be gotten back any more.....you need not expect that I ever shall advise any of you to come hear to live.....stay where you are and be industerous and Honest and virtuous and Saving and you will save your Self a heap of trouble hear and hear after."

"I have been promoted since I came hear to the Honor of Justice of the Peace and have as much property as any of my neighbors within ten miles.....Dear Brother I wish you to send me some of the Scuppernong grape seed.....if it is only a thimble full of seed.....I have never seen any since I left my native land.....please write me the deaths and marriages from Plymouth to Collumbia that has take (place) since I left."

"..Your affectionate Brother until Death

James Newberry



When James wrote his second letter, he had not had a reply to his previous one(s), "I wrote to you in August but never received any andwer. I am anktous to hear from you and family nabors and the deaths I want you to inform me about the marriages since I left"

As in all the letters, he writes of the price of land, livestock, and produce, and the cost of provisions. He pleads again for Scuppernong grape seed, and "some of the silk worm eggs as soon as you begin to make silk or before if you can please do not forget me finally"

He is now "settling in" in his new home. "I feel better satisfied now then at first which I am told is always the case by movers. I have some excellent neighbors which feel like brothers. I have some vallueable Christian friends I am acting as Debuity Treasurer this year. My boys has undertaken a very large crop as to myself I expect to build a sawmill which will run by horse power....."

"....give my regards to all my friends and tell them if they want to see me in this world they will have to come to Cherokee County Ala as I never expect to come there any more.....give my regards to James McCabe and wife and family to Brother Joseph and family to Jordan Spruill and family to Doctrine Davenport and family.....tell them I wish them all to serve the living God and to walk in the path of virtue and wisdom.....yours

James Newberry



The third letter in our possesion is dated "January 18th 1846". He begins with an account of a visit by an iterinate preacher, probably an acquaintance from Carolina.

"....I wrote you sometime last April to let you know that Brother J.W. Pender had paid me a visit and he preached four times in my neighborhood. that the people generally liked him well and all sects say he is a great preacher as they ever heard"...

James reports that Edward (a son), who had "moved" to Mississippi, had returned for "Demerris" (Edward's wife) who had been living with James during Edward's absence, and "they are both living in that state in Yellowbushy (Yalobushy) County and Demerris is the best satisfied with the country that she has bin with ever since she moved from that country" He reports that John (a son) "is doing very well he has built a sawmill and a griss mill with another man. Jesse and James (sons) have both left me....."I (have) put me in a gin house and have a gin thrasher that goes by horses....and I have invented a new cotton press" at which his neighbors first scoffed, but soon praised.

"I have planted a large orchard of peach trees and shall be able to make a large quantity of brandy which is profitable I have a large stock of hogs and cattle sheep and as many horses and mules as I want.....since we moved to this state I have selected a very healthy situation and have a fine spring to use water out of...."

"When I came from that state I did not obtain a certificate that I was a honest citizen of that place if I had I could walk right in Legislature I shall inclose a certificate such a one that I think my (former) neighbors will assign and as I love you and put great confidence in you I wish you to present it to the citizens of my (former) county The reason that I want them to assign such a paper is there is so many runaways that comes heare that it is often throwed up to movers that they have runaway from there county they left I want you to take some paines in atenden public places or to take your horse and ride about and obtain subscribers it is the last office that I shall expect and tell them that I love and respect all my friends.....I want you to apply to Esq. Phelps (Charles) Charles Lewis Jordan Spruill R.B. Davis Jos S. Norman to (illegible)"

James's enclosed certificate reads, "State of North Carolina Washington County. We the undersigned certify that we have known James Newberry and family and are acquainted with them and have been for years and that we do not know any harm of them that they did not runaway from this county but we say they were as industrious a family as any in the above named county illegible Newberry paid his debts honerably before he started to leave this county (torn) and we believe that he would not cheet or defraud any person" The draft is accomped by this request, "I would like that you git Mr Charles Phelps to copy this as i do not want it to be in my hand writing please atend to this matter as soon as possible" A fragment of a version of the foregoing, with spelling corrected, is among the Family papers. It appears to be in the fine hand of T.S. Downing, Clerk of the Washington County Court.

James closes his letter with the advice, "to any thinking of moving, to go and look first." And, "Tell all my friends that if I never see them again in this world to try to meet me in heaven where if I hold out faithful I do expect to land.....yours in Brotherly Love

James Newberry

◆

The last of "our" James Newberry letters is dated "Nov the 8th 1850". Of the four, it is perhaps the most important, from a personal history and genealogical standpoint.

"....as to politics there is a great commotion at present in this country I myself begin to wish that there was not a single negro in the Southern Country or the United States"....if you could be hear and see me attending to all my business you would think I had a hard task when my saw & griss mills & store and shop (blacksmith) & cotton gin is all in opperation it would do you good to see it and your old brother a trotting round tending to them.....I forgot to state that I have a verry Large jack that stands at my own stable.....I have 14 head of horses jacks mules and jinnies and an excellent stock of sheep & hogs goats and evry kindand description....."

"I am weighing about 250 lbs and am still growing larger I was measured last night by a Taylor around the breast and measured 49 inches you know that I (am) a bad hand to brag but certainly I am the best man that ever your eyes looked on I now am 54 years old next spring and there is not a wrinkle in my face and my face read as a rose So that (makes?) me the hansomest of all the family Nancy my wife looks young for all she has had so many children I will state there names Joseph & Benjamin & James Franklin Henry Clay william Henry Harrison George Washington and Abraham 7 her daughters names is as follows Pamelia Nancy Sarah....."

"I recall that in your last you said that you could throw down any man that weighed 250 lbs as you know that we have always been friendly please when you wright me again I want you to acknowledge that I can capise your paddles in the twinklin of an eye You must not be so saucy as it will not take more than four or five days for me to git there if I was to start I go to Augusta in 27 hours now and have to travel 30 miles on horse back or steam boat to git to Rome I have had some plesent rides on the rail road safely and we can go at the rate of a mile a minute Dear Brother laying all jokes aside I wish you to Right me as soon as posable and let me know how all the people are doing in my native land the deaths and marriages I want to know and wish you to take a great deal of pains in the list of boath Hester Chesson I want to know how she is doing and Lisa Davenport that lived with her...I saw a few lines that Samuel wrote John my son that said Augustus Freeman was dead but did not state when he died or what he was worth and what he followed all the time since we left there Ann Freeman has four children one son and 3 daughters and is going to live close to me and her husband has engaged to keep my griss mill next year....."

James ends this "final" letter with an enthusiastic, prideful, announcement of his invention of "a composition medison" that he was "certain will eternally prevent any

person from having the ague (ague) or any fever of any kind". As soon as he obtains the patent, "expect to visit my native land with my wife and stay there until I for ever (rid) that awful scourge from those counties near the Sea Shore or marshy parts of the Country" He explains that "the medison is of vegitable substance entierly"

your Affectionate brother till Death  
James Newberry

**MNK**



#### AGUE

"FEBRIS INTERMITTENS". An intermittent fever, or ague. Intermittent fevers are known by cold, hot, and sweating stages....(described)"

(HOOPER'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY. Harper & Brothers, 1839)

(The relationship of ague and the mosquito was little understood in the days of James Newberry. We know ague as "malaria". ed.)

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State of North Carolina) Special Meeting of the Boards  
Washington County ) of County Commissioners

April 4th 1887

Ordered that the following named persons be and they are hereby appointed to list and assess the Lands and Personal Property in the several Townships of the County according to the Machinery Act of 1887.

Viz:

for Skinnersville Township--

Eli Snell  
H. J. Starr  
Abram Newberry

(From Newberry family papers.)

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At the University of North Carolina's graduation of 1859, G.B. Johnson (Johnston?) delivered the Valedictory. Two Plymouth young men, Louis C. Latham and Stuart L. Johnston, graduated with "Third Distinction".

*(Abstracted from the Williamston Mercury, June 1, 1859)*

**BMR**

**HENRY SPRUILL'S  
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT**

12 JULY, 1821

This "true copy" was provided by Malcolm Newberry Knight, from his collection of Newberry family papers. The original will was apparently victim of one of the several Washington County Courthouse fires of the 19th century.

State of North Carolina, Washington County -----.

In the name of God amen. I Henry Spruill of the County and State eforsd being of sound and perfect mind and memory blessed be God do this 12 day of July in the year of our Lord 1821 make and publis this my Last will and testament in manner following that to say-----  
First after all my just debts are paid, I lend unto my beloved wife Sceala Spruill my house and Land whereon I now live and negroes Hannar and two children Sam and Dave and the rest of her increase and the rest of all my moveable estate of every kind during her lifetime or widowhood.  
I give to my son Jordan Spruill my Persimmon Land to him his heirs and assigns forever.

I give unto my three daughters Christian, Lova and Easter Spruill Hannar and her two children Sam and Dave and and the rest of her increase at the death or marriage of there mother.

I give unto my son Aaron Spruill one small piece of land in the body that I had of Willoughby Spruill and the House and Land whereon I now live at the death or marriage of his mother----

I give to my five children Jordan, Christian, Lova, Easter, and Aaron Spruill all the rest of my estate of any kind and nature whatever that is not already willed away to be equally divided among them at marriage or death of there mother.

And I Henry Spruill make and ordained my beloved wife Sceala Spruill and my brother Aaron Spruill and friend John Norman, Sen?. my executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the date above retin.

Signed in the presence of us  
(signed) Henry Spruill

Betsey Norman

his  
Zepsia Spruill  
Mark  
Washington County August Term 1821

WCGSJ

This may certify this will was proved in open court as the law directs by the oath of Betsey Norman & ordered recorded.

T.S. Downing CLK

A true copy of this will of Henry Spruill as filed in my office  
May 1, 1837

T.E. Pender CLK  
of W.C.C.

EAN

The petition of Jordan Spruill an infant by his guardian Aaron Spruill and the heir of Myles Spruill. Woodson Spruill by his guardian Milly Spruill, Anson Spruill and infant by his guardian Milly Spruill, Joshua Spruill, Levi Ambrose and wife Polly, Daniel Woodley & wife Sarah and Baley Spruill state that Henry Spruill the father of your petitioner, Jordan was seized and papered of the one half of Persimon Island in Washington County and adjoining the lands of John Norman, Aaron Davenport & Nancy Davenport and that Myles Spruill was sized & papered of the other half of said Island and that the said Henry Spruill by his last will and testament divided his half to your petitioner Jordan, & that the said Myles Spruill divided his said other half to your petitioner, your petitioner prays that the said Island may be divided according to the wills of the said Henry & Myles Spruill & that five commissioning (?) freeholders may be appointed with the County Surveyor to decide the same - agreeable to law and said Will and make report to next Term.

(Signed T. B. Hatt.)  
A true copy Test W.L. Chesson CLK

State of North Carolina      Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Nov. Term 1824  
Washington County

CSP

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## DEMOCRATS FLEX MUSCLE WASHINGTON COUNTY, 1859

By 1854 the Whig Party, the overwhelming party of choice of our Albemarle ancestors for two decades, was pretty well defunct. Now, in 1859, the winds of war were blowing.. not gustily, but steadily. To throw-in our lot with the vigorous, bellicose, Democrats now seemed the South's best defence against "northern aggression". Many of the men named in the following article were former staunch Whigs who had joined the Democrats after, we may assume, much soul-searching.

The article reproduced below was found in the June 1st, 1859 issue of The WILLIAMSTON (NC) MERCURY. We have indexed the many names collectively as "Democratic Delegates, 1859."

At a meeting of the democracy of Washington county, N. C., held in Plymouth, on the 16th of May, 1859,

On motion; the meeting was called to order, by appointing A. S. Chesson, Esq., Chairman, and Wm. J. Norman Secretary.

The chairman having explained the object of the meeting in a brief, but impressive manner, was requested to appoint a committee of five, to draft resolutions for the action of the same; whereon he appointed the following gentlemen, viz: J. S. Swift, E. J. Johnson, R. Kirby, Charles Phelps and U. W. Swanner.

The committee having retired, the meeting was addressed by Gen. H. G. Spruill, in a very appropriate and forcible manner, showing clearly that all opposition to the democracy was but strengthening the republican party of the North. The democratic party being the only national party.

The committee after due deliberation, returned, and through their chairman, J. S. Swift, Esq., reported the following resolutions, which were adopted:

*Resolved* 1. That we approve of the democratic convention to be helden in Edenton, on the 26th of May, to nominate a candidate to represent us in the next Congress of the United States.

*Resolved* 2. That we have increased confidence in our late Representative, Hon. H. M. Shaw, and present his claims to the convention, with a pledge that as true and faithful democrats, we will support its nominee.

*Resolved* 3. That the chairman of this meeting appoint sixty delegates to represent this county in said convention.

In accordance with the last resolution the chair appointed the following, to-wit:

*For Plymouth District.*—John M. Gerganous, T. M. Gray, Henry Gerganous, Anson Ains, Charles Mizell, Edward W. Ains, Bailey D. Bateman, Hardy Everett, J. D. Windley, John Nichols, Dr. W. W. Ward, W. A. Littlejohn, George Moore, M. Fulford, E. J. Kinnell, F. F. Long, J. G. Griffin, George Pierce and Dr. B. F. Fessenden.

*For Lee's Mills.*—Henry Downing, John K. Bea, Smith Clayton, Wm. B. Harrison, Friley Chesson, Bailey Swain, Thomas Bambridge, Joseph Blount, Edmund Blount and M. Bowen.

*For Skinnerville.*—J. S. Norman, Wm. L. Smith, Abijah Swain, Geo. Swain, James E. Rhoads, G. J. Cherry, Henry Storr, Charles J. Lewis, S. S. Norman, Joseph ... , Hardy Patrick, John Newbery, J. D. Newbery, and Noah White.

*For Cool Spring.*—Abel Belaughy, Jesse Sawyer, Sam. L. Woody, Stephen Davenport, John P. Furlough, John Furlough, Josiah Collins, sen., Bailey Ambrose, Benj. Hassell, Sam. P. Woodley, Dr. H. Hardison, Jesse Furlough, Levi Hassell, Carney Spruill, Alex. M. Phelps, Roberson S. Davenport, Eli Woody, and John Woody.

On motion of E. J. Johnson, the chairman and secretary were added to the above list.

J. S. Swift, Esq., being called for, came forward and addressed the meeting, in an able and eloquent manner.

On motion of Dr. B. F. Fessenden, it was requested that the proceedings of the meeting be sent to the two democratic papers published in Williamston, N. C., for publication.

On motion the meeting adjourned sine die. *A. S. CHESSON, Chmn.*  
*Wm. J. NORMAN, Sec'y.*

BMR





### **REHOBOTH METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH**

On July 15, 1850, Joseph Swift Norman deeded the land for Rehoboth to the first trustees of the church. Thomas Norman, Gisbourn J. Cherry, William C. Sleight, Ira E. Norman, and Abraham Chesson. The 1 7/8 acre site was carved from Norman's 1160 acre "Sharon" plantation.

We will look deeply into this prettiest (hardly debatable) of Washington County's churches and its congregation in a future edition. Here, we will only present a transcription of the marriages of early members of the church, with comments upon some of them. A comparison of the Register with the Courthouse records reveal, in some instances, a difference of one to several days in the date of ceremony. The transcribers of the Register noted, fifteen years ago, that they were copying "from very faint pages."

#### MARRIAGES From the Register

Man	Woman	Date	Minister
S.R. Spruill (1)	Sarah F. Norman (2)	Feb. 25, 1851	W.H. Wills (14)
Wm. C. Sleight (3)k	Angelica F. Davenport	Feb. 25, 1851	Chas J. Lewis JP
Wm. J. Norman (4)	Mary W. Hunter	May 30, 1854	W.H. Wills
Abijah Swain	Sarah F. Steeley	Mar. 12, 1854	Sam'l W.Davenport
Frederick Cahoon	Priscilla A. Norman (5)	Jan. 8, 1857	T.H. Pegram
S.S. Norman (6)	Ellen C. Hunter	Oct. 22, 1859	W.H. Wills
Silas H. Snell	Frances A. Leary	July 23, 1857	W.C. SleightJP(15)

Abner Lamb (7)	Hester Spruill	May 2, 1858	W.C. Sleight JP
David Johnson	Mary A. Alexander	June 1, 1858	W.C. Sleight JP
John W. Foley (8)	Mrs. B. Cahoon	July 9, 1858	W.C. Sleight JP
Geo. W. Giles	Mrs. Sarah Brabble	Mar. 17, 1859	J.A. Melson JP(16)
Wiley Whitaker	Martha Harrison	Mar. 29, 1860	J. Ramsey JP
Staton W. Foley (9)	Margaret S. Hopkins	Feb. 6, 1868	R.H. Wills
Jas. F. Davenport	Marietta Spruill	Mar. 4, 1868 * (17)	R.H. Wills
Jordan H. Hopkins	Elizabeth Wiley	Apr. 2, 1868 * (17)	R.H. Wills
Abram Newberry (10)	Deborah Freeman	May 6, 1868 * (17)	R.H. Wills
W.D. Hufton	Nancy McLeary	July 26, 1868	R.H. Wills
S.W. Foley	Zelphia L. Steeley	Nov. 4, 1872	John Paris
S.C. Tarkenton	Helen C. White (11)	Nov. 20, 1871	John Paris
R.H. Wills (12)	A.L. Norman (13)	Jan. 20, 1864	W.H. Wills
J.W. Spruill	A. Davenport	May 15, 1873	R.R. Michaux
Samuel B. Johnson	Frances C. Herrington	Dec. 12, 1883	E.A. Wilson

1. "Sheperd" Spruill, See Roanoke Male Collegiate Institute, herein.
2. Daughter of Thomas Norman, a first trustee of Rehoboth.
3. See Roanoke Male Collegiate, herein.
4. Only son of Thomas Norman, first trustee. Bride was of Halifax County.
5. Daughter of Ira E. Norman, a first trustee of Rehoboth. Ira was second cousin to Joseph S. and Thomas.
6. Oldest of Joseph S's three sons. Bride was of Halifax County.
7. A "second" marriage. Abner was a veteran of War of 1812.
8. Would serve, die, in the 17th Regiment, Civil War.
9. Veteran of 17th NC Regiment.
10. Son of John Newberry II, of "Sahara Plantation."
11. Daughter of Moses White, prominent farmer of Skinnerville.
12. Prominent Methodist Protestant minister, Son of W.H. Wills.
13. Youngest of the two daughters of Joseph S. Norman.
14. "William Henry", President, General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church.
15. See Roanoke Male Collegiate Institute, herein.
16. Properous farmer, Clerk of Washington County Superior Court c. 1873.
17. (\*) Register omits day & month. Supplied here from County records.



## NOTICE.

ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, the 15th and 16th of June, will take place the 1st annual examination of the students of

### Roanoke Collegiate Institute.

On Friday, the 17th, the first class will perform public exercises in declamation and composition. At the same time a literary address will be delivered by the Rev. Mr. Moran, of Tawboro, N. C.

The performances will conclude with a drill of the military class. The public are respectfully invited to attend.

J. W. De FORD.

J. L. SWAIN.

Hamilton, May 30, 1850.—14:21.

### Course of Study.

A complete course is always desirable, yet a partial course may be pursued. Students admitted at any time, and charged only from the time of entrance. Students can be prepared in this school for any class in College. For further particulars, address

SWAIN & DeFORD, Proprietors, or  
Messrs. Shepherd Spruill, Thos. Jones, W. K.  
Williams, W. R. Brown, W. R. Hyman, E. C.  
Weathersbee, B. Bennett.

June 29, 1850.—14:21.

## Roanoke Male Collegiate Institute.

THE ABOVE NAMED INSTITUTION IS LOCATED AT Hamilton, N. C., fifty miles above Plymouth, and thirty-five below Enfield, in the midst of a pleasant, healthy and rapidly growing section of country, accessible by stage and steamboat from all parts of the State. Buildings, Groves and Play-ground ample, commodious and elegant.

### Literary Department.

This department is under the entire control and immediate supervision of the Instructors, at all times.

### Boarding Department.

This department is under the direction Wm. C. Sleight, Esq., and Lady, late of Washington county. We feel confident that further commendation is unnecessary, to ensure the utmost confidence of all who are acquainted with the above named gentleman, to ensure the utmost confidence in his integrity and ability to discharge faithfully the duties of his station; while we would respectfully refer them that do not know him, to Messrs. J. C. Norcum, Joe. Ranney, H. B. Short, and Joseph Smith, Esqrs., of Plymouth; or to J. S. Swift, A. L. Chewon, J. S. Norman and C. J. Lewis, Esqrs., of Washington county, N. C.

### Tuition:

Tuition, Board, Lodging, Fuel, Lights, and attendance in the Institute, 70 dollars per session of 5 months.

Tuition in English branches, including Chemistry, Philosophy, Anatomy, Physiology and Astronomy, from 10 to 20 dollars per session.

### Ancient and Modern Languages, each extra.

A Military Feature has also been added to the above course. All students that choose it can have field exercise free of extra charge, together with the use of all necessary armor for that purpose.

Board in the Institution, including Lodging Room, Fuel and attendance from 7 to 9 dollars per month.

The next term will commence on Monday, the 5th of September, 1850, and continue ten months, with an intermission at the end of five months. This arrangement will enable us to give a vacation of two months, embracing July and August.

### Government.

Sectarianism excluded, but strict morality inculcated, both by precept and example, in every department.

Discipline mild but firm. A scrupulous regard will ever be paid to the physical and moral development of the students.

## ROANOKE MALE COLLEGiate INSTITUTE

These articles from the Williamston MERCURY enhance our previous short articles on the Institute.

We now know that military instruction was offered as a "elective". We may surmise that it stood in good stead those students and alumni who would soon be caught up in the great WAR.

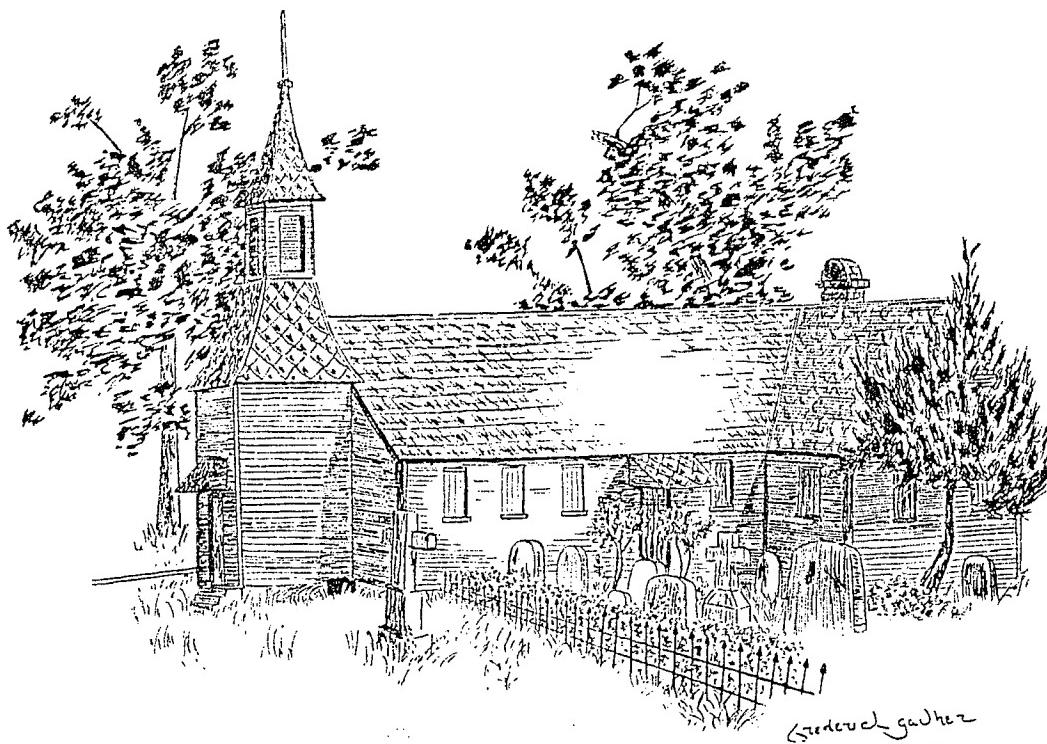
Washington County's ties to, and support of the Institute is evidenced by the notable citizens--planters, merchants and officials--given as references to the soundness of the institution.

William S. Sleight, head of the Boarding Department, was of Skimmersville District. His "Lady" was presumably, Angelica Davenport, whom he married in February 1851.

Shepherd Spruill now lived in Martin County, but his roots were deep in the lower Scuppernong. Five days before the Sleights were wed, he had married Sarah Norman, daughter of Thomas Norman, one of the first trustees of Rehoboth Methodist Protestant Church.

BMR  
EAN





### PETTIGREW'S CHAPEL - ST. DAVID'S CHURCH CRESWELL, NORTH CAROLINA

We refer our readers to the WCGS Journal of August 1997 for an introduction to Pettigrew's Chapel - St. David's Church. We here give the first of the marriages and burials, beginning in 1836, recorded in the existing Parish Register. The whereabouts of the prior Chapel records is unknown. In our transcription we omit the names of the officiating clergy.

Records prior to 1858 are properly those of Pettigrew's Chapel, as St. David's Church and Parish did not evolve until that year.

The marriages and burials recorded here were not conducted at the church. In rural communities of that era, we were normally wed at the home of the bride, or at a relative's, and we were usually buried on family land. Recording a 1861 ceremony, Rev. Joseph W. Murphy states in the Register, "This (is) the first burial from the Church, & the first in the Church Yard".

**RECORDS OF ST. DAVID'S PARISH**  
**MARRIAGES**

DATE	NAME	<u>PLACE</u>
1836 Dec. 24	Dudley Plummer & Teresa Spruill	
1837 Apr. 6	Wm. A Spruill & Mary Tarkington	
1837 Jul. 20	Hezekiah Swain & Nancy Fortune	
1838 Oct. 21	Jeremiah Swain & Mary Spruill	
1838 Nov. 11	Andrew Wynn & Affa Long	
1838 Dec. 26	Joseph D. Newberry & Eliza Greg	
1839 Apr. 28	Issac B. Bateman & Sarah Spruill	
1843 Apr. 27	Martin W. Lucas & Frances A.L. Arrington	
1843 Dec. 26	Woodbury S Nickels & Ann C. Spruill	Mrs. Dempsey Spruill's
1844 May 7	Warren Ward & Alexina Boyle	In Plymouth
1844 May 30	Jeremiah Swain & Henrietta Dunstan	Mrs. Dempsey Spruill's
1844 Nov. 12	Wm. A. Wynn & Sarah J. Halsey	Mr. Halsey's
1846 Apr. 17	Joshua Gallop & Teresa Dudley	Mrs. Dempsey Spruill's
1846 Feb. 25	William Halsey & Caroline E. Bateman	Mr. Chesson's
1847 May 11	Henderson B. Phelps & Martha A. Lindsey	Mr. J.J. Lindsey's
1848 May 10	Thomas E. Skinner & Ann E. Halsey	Mr. Halsey's
1848 Jun. 7	Thomas B. Myers & Ann C. Nicholis	Mrs. Dempsey Spruill's
1848 Sep. 14	Joseph Calhoun & Mrs. Penelope Wilder	Mr. D. Davenport's
1849 May 1	David R. Lindsey & Ann Oliver	Mr. Lindsey's
1849 Sep. 20	Joseph B. Davenport & Mrs. A.C. Myers	Mrs Dempsey Spruill's
1850 Sep. 10	Abram Swain & Marietta Dunstan	
1850 Oct. 10	Doctrine P. Davenport & C.T. Haughton	Mr. McRae's
1850 Dec. 24	Dr. B.F. Arrington & S.A.P. Spruill	Lake Scuppernong
1851 Jan. 7	Jno. Newberry Jr. & Drupina A. Newberry	Sycamore
1851 Jan. 14	John W. Hooker & William E. (Elizabeth) Spruill	
Grove		

**BURIALS**

DATE	NAME	<u>AGE</u>
1837 Jul.	Mr. Benjamin Tarkington	
1838 Aug. 31	Mrs. Sarah Bowser	
" Dec. 2	Miss Emma Todd	
1839 Jun. 22	Mrs. R.B. Davis	
" Nov. 22	Mrs. Daniel Woodley	
" Dec. 11	Miss Nancy Phelps	
1840 Oct. 8	Jane Spruill	
1841 Apr. 5	Gen. Daniel N. Bateman	58 years
1842 Mar. 9	Dempsey Spruill *	62 Years

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>
1843 Feb. 1	Mrs. Mary Swain	
1843 Feb. 5	Edward Riggs Collins ** Sons of Josiah	
" " "	Hugh Davis Collins & Mary Collins.	
	Drowned in Canal	
	Feb. 2	
" Mar. 3	Emma Lewis	3 years
" Dec. 2	Anna Alexina Hardison	6 weeks
1844 Nov. 6	Plummer C. Dudley	
" " 16	Ambrose Dudley	(an infant)
1845 Apr. 14	Louisa Spruill	
" Feb. 20	William Edward (Col. child)	
1846 Sep. 25	Noah Gilbert Phelps	6 months
" Nov. 6	Mrs. C.E. Halsey	27 years
1847 Apr. 28	Ann Tarkinton	18 years
1848 Jan. 23	Mrs. Doctrine Davenport	
" Mar. 28	William S. Chesson	
" Jul. 10	Hon. Ebenezer Pettigrew	65 years
1848 Aug. 31	Thomas B. Myers	Middle Age
" Sep. 5	Wm. Bailey Tarkinton	3 1/2 years
" Oct. 5	Mrs. Amelia Spruill ***	70 yeears

\* See "Will of Dempsey Spruill. WCGSJ, August 1997

\*\* See "A Collins Tragedy". WCGSJ, August 1996

\*\*\* See "Will of Amelia Spruill", herein

EAN



April Term 1791. Cornelius Swain appointed overseer of the road "from Joshua Swains chapel down to the Barked Poplar Swamp"

(Tyrrell Court Minutes)

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October Term 1792. Benjamin Spruill, son of Col. Joseph Spruill appointed Entry Taker.  
(Tyrrell Court Minutes)

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## AMELIA A. SPRUILL WILL

Know all men by these present, that I Amelia Spruill of Washington County, North Carolina, being of sound mind & memory, do make & publish this my last Will & Testament .  
Viz to wit \_\_\_\_\_

1st I give & bequeath to my Grand son Woodson T Spruill that part of the tract of land whereon I now live, and joining the lands of William A Spruill and others, and may be distinguished as follows, the said William A Spruills land binds it on the south & partly on the east, the lands of William S Pettigrew also binds it on the east, the lands of Ashbury Norman binds it on the west, a ditch from three to four feet wide lately cut, and a line continues with this ditch east & west is the nothern boundary, the width of the land is about two hundred & twenty yards, and contains thirty five acres more or less, my said Grand son Woodson to take possession of the said land when he arrives at the age of twenty one years.

2nd I give & bequeath unto my Grand son Bailey A Spruill and James A Spruill, and all my Grandsons the sons of Anson A Spruill, that may be born after this date, all the residue of my lands after the death of my son Anson A Spruill (his life right reserved) I desire for the above residue to be equally divided among my Grandsons, that may be living at the death of my son their father, with the exception of my Grand son Woodson T Spruill whose share is laid off as above mentioned.

3rd I give & bequeath unto my son Anson A Spruill, my negro man Sam, with the express understanding that the said negro man Sam, shall in no manner be sold by my said son Anson, nor shall he be subject to the payment of any debts, which he may now owe, or which he may contract hereafter.

4th I give & bequeath unto my Grand children, the children of my son Anson A Spruill both boys & girls, after the death of my said son Anson (his life estate reserved) the following. Negroes to wit. Aaron, Silvy, Iony, Jurdan, Ilinenva, Austin, Penny, Hester, George and Clve, and their increase, the above negroes & their increase, given to my Grand children now living & those born after this date to be equally divided among them. These negroes so given are not to be subject to any debts which my son Anson may now owe or may owe at my death.

4th I give & bequeath to each of my Grandchildren, the children of my son Anson, a bed, bedstead & furniture to be given them when they may wish to have them.

5th I give & bequeath unto each of my Grand children above mentioned, a cow & calf, to be given them when called for.

6th All the residue of my house-hold furniture and my Beaufort (?) contents I give & bequeath unto my son Anson A Spruill, with the exception of the following articles to wit - I give unto my Grand Daughter Harriet, Amelia Frances, & Sarah Ann, my set of silver table spoones, and to my Grand sons Woodson & Bailey half dozen teaspoons each, and to my Grand daughter Harriet my pair bras hand irons.

I give and bequeath unto my Grand son Woodson T Spruill all of my stock of hogs which I may have on hand at my death.

I give unto my Grand son Woodson, my black horse &

I give unto my Grand son Bailey, my sorrell horse Coll for the use of the plantation.

Lastly I nominate & appoint my friend Ashbury Norman  
and my son Anson A Spruill executors to this my last will & testament - In witness whereof I  
have herewith set my hand & seal this 30th day of September 1848  
Signed & sealed in the (signed) Amelia Spruill (Seal)  
presence of us A True Copy  
(signed) Hardy Hardison Test F F Fagan  
(signed) Wm A Spruill clk

(Original in the possession of Frances Spruill Chandler)  
(g-g-g-granddaughter)

CSP



## SWEET BETSY FROM PIKE

This folk song wasn't sung by the South Shore migrants whom we will meet in our now-beginning series. Betsy didn't make her cliff-hanging journey until the days of the California gold rush, well after our folks had found their new homes. It is said that the song was first published in 1858.

We don't know if Betsy was a real-life girl whose tale is told, in song, with some fidelity to facts. Perhaps she was "born" around a camp fire in the gold fields, as a few miners pulled on their flasks and reminisced about tough, funny, pioneer women that they had known.

Few of us of Tyrrell and Washington Counties will cast stones at Betsy "and her lover Ike" for sharing the perils of the trail without benefit of clergy. Later in our series we will find that at least one of our pioneering couples went west in that same state of unwed bliss.

Betsy reputedly began her journey in Pike County, Missoui, not far north of New Madrid County where one of our Pea Ridge migrations ended in the early '40s. When we tell of that trek, we will see that New Madrid served as a staging point for a later removal to Texas.

So, we feel a kinship with Sweet Betsy, and envy her, and wish that our folks had been memorialized in song. For Betsy's song, see inside back cover, this issue.

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